

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 IO-13 SAM-01 /055 W

----- 102870

R 160820Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3884

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

S E C R E T JAKARTA 5015

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, ID, US

SUBJECT: STAGING OF US MILITARY FLIGHTS THROUGH INDONESIA

REF: SINGAPORE 1813 (DTG 130907Z APR 76)

1. WE BELIEVE IT VERY UNLIKELY GOI WOULD APPROVE USE OF  
INDONESIAN AIRFIELDS FOR STAGING US MILITARY FLIGHTS IN  
INDIAN OCEAN AREA, AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL. AS ONE OF  
ORIGINATORS OF NON-ALIGNMENT, INDONESIA HAS THROUGHOUT ITS  
HISTORY REFUSED TO PERMIT USE ITS TERRITORY AS BASE FOR  
MILITARY OPERATIONS BY ANY OF GREAT POWERS. IT HAS MADE  
NO EXCEPTIONS FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE SUPPLIERS OF  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WHICH HAVE INCLUDED SOVIET UNION IN  
EARLY SIXTIES AS WELL AS US TODAY. MOREOVER, IN LAST TWO  
YEARS GOI HAS BECOME MORE SENSITIVE ABOUT MAINTAINING ITS  
NON-ALIGNED IMAGE, DUE TO SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS FALL OF INDO-  
CHINA, LDC MOVEMENT FOR NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, DESIRE TO AVOID  
CRITICISM OF ITS THIRD-WORLD COLLEAGUES ON TIMOR ISSUE, AND  
INTEREST IN RETAINING OPTION OF DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF

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ECONOMIC AID TO INCLUDE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST

COUNTRIES. WHILE INDONESIAN MILITARY PRIVATELY FAVORABLE TO CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE IN WESTERN PACIFIC, GOI HAS STEADFASTLY AVOIDED PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF US BASES IN ASIA AND IS ON RECORD AS OPPOSING--ALBEIT IN PRO FORMA FASHION--EXPANSION OF FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA.

2. PERIODIC USE OF INDONESIAN BASES BY US MILITARY FLIGHTS WOULD CONVEY IMPRESSION OF DIRECT GOI SUPPORT FOR US MILITARY OPERATIONS--A POSITION THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNTENABLE FOR GOI BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. INDONESIANS KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON LANDINGS BY ANY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING SUPPORT FLIGHTS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO APPROVE OCCASIONAL OVERFLIGHTS OF US MILITARY AIRCRAFT BOUND FOR INDIAN OCEAN BUT UNLIKELY DO SO ON REGULAR BASIS.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REGARD TO MEDAN AIRFIELD, ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION IS TECHNICAL UNSUITABILITY FOR P-3 REFUELING DUE TO INADEQUATE RUNWAY STRENGTH AND LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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